(c) The derailments took place mainly due to failure of railway staff, equipment failure and sabotage.

(d) Some of the important steps taken to reduce derailments are:—

(i) induction of technical devices to aid the human element;

(ii) monitoring the performance of staff of critical safety categories such as drivers, guards, station masters, etc.

(iii) intensive training of staff in operational categories;

(iv) intensive and frequent inspections of sensitive installations;

(e) and (f) An amount of Rs. 558.77 lakhs was paid as compensation during 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 and 445 accident compensation claim cases are with the Railway Claims Tribunal for grant of award. Priority is given to accident compensation claim cases in their disposal by Railway Claims Tribunal.

Proposal for Amendment of Indian Railway Act.

1415. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to amend the Indian Railway Act to encourage private participation in improving the rail services;

(b) if so, what are the proposed amendments; and

(c) by when these amendments are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Shuttle train between Guntur and Secunderabad

1416. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce a shuttle train between Guntur and Secunderabad; and

(b) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Timing of Narayanadri Express

1417. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 86 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th July, 1992 and state:

(a) what is the number of representations received for effecting change in the timings of Narayanadri Express; and

(b) whether there is difference in the occupancy of the train after the change in timings; if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) 5 representations including one letter through Editor, Indian Express, suggesting changes in the schedule of 7423 Tirupati-Secunderabad Narayanadri Express were received.

(b) There is no drop in through passengers for whom the train was introduced. However, there is a drop of local passengers travelling between Guntur and Secunderabad.